

**REMARKS**

**Status of the Application**

Claims 1-31 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11-13, 22, 25, 26 and 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bui et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,937,413. Claims 5 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bui et al. in view of Cates et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,963,400. Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bui et al. in view of Murphy et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,433,949. Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bui et al. in view of Fasen et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,031,673. Claims 3, 8, 20, 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bui et al. in view of Hennecken et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,710,967. Claims 21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bui et al. in view of Kosuge U.S. Patent No. 5,353,176. Claims 4, 9 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

*Claims 4, 9 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.*

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4, 9 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicants respectfully request that any rewriting be

held in abeyance until the Examiner has taken the opportunity to reconsider (and withdraw) the prior art rejections of the other claims.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102**

*Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11-13, 22, 25, 26 and 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bui et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,937,413.*

The U.S. filing date for Bui is August 8, 2003. The filing date for the Japanese priority document (JP 2003-110504) for the instant application is April 15, 2003. By perfecting claim to priority, the date of invention becomes the filing date (April 15, 2003) of the foreign Applicant's priority document, JP 2003-110504. Thus, submitted with this amendment is an English translation of Applicant's priority document, JP 2003-110504 and a signed statement attesting to the accuracy of said translation. Applicants hereby perfect claim to priority and wish to rely on said perfection with respect to the applied prior art of *Bui*. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection over Bui, as Bui is hereby removed as a prior art reference. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11-13, 22, 25, 26 and 29-31 are patentable over the applied art.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

*Claims 5 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bui et al. in view of Cates et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,963,400.*

Claims 5 and 10 are dependent from claims 1 and 10, respectively. Because Bui is antedated by the verified English translation of JP 2003-110504, it is no longer a §103 reference. Therefore, claims 5 and 10 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

*Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bui et al. in view of Murphy et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,433,949.*

Claims 14-16 are dependent from claim 1. . Because Bui is antedated by the verified English translation of JP 2003-110504, it is no longer a §103 reference. Therefore, claims 14-16 are patentable over the applied references at least by virtue of their dependency.

*Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bui et al. in view of Fasen et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,031,673.*

Claims 17-19 are dependent from claim 1. . Because Bui is antedated by the verified English translation of JP 2003-110504, it is no longer a §103 reference. Therefore, claims 17-19 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

*Claims 3, 8, 20, 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bui et al. in view of Hennecken et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,710,967.*

Claims 3, 8, 20, 27 and 28 are dependent from claims 1 and 6, respectively. . Because Bui is antedated by the verified English translation of JP 2003-110504, it is no longer a §103 reference. Therefore, claims 3, 8, 20, 27 and 28 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

*Claims 21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bui et al. in view of Kosuge U.S. Patent No. 5,353,176.*

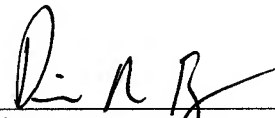
Claims 21 and 24 are dependent from claim 12. . Because Bui is antedated by the verified English translation of JP 2003-110504, it is no longer a §103 reference. Therefore, claims 21 and 24 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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